

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1370

INFO USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: SZECHWAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE PLENUM

REF: A. HONG KONG 6734; B. HONG KONG 7508; C. HONG KONG 7372

SUMMARY: GOOD EVIDENCE THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES ARE MAKING A COMEBACK FROM THEIR POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION RUBBER-STAMP ROLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SZECHWAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (RC) PLENUM REPORTED BELOW. THE PLENUM REPORT CLAIMED AN ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE FOR THE COMMITTEES AND EMPHASIZED THAT MAO INSTRUCTIONS ON UTILIZING THE RC WERE APPLICABLE IN THE CURRENT MOVEMENT. THE RENEWED INTEREST IN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES REFLECTS THE LEFT'S DESIRE TO GIVE YOUNG ACTIVISTS A SHARE OF POWER-- RATHER THAN JUST TITLES--- WITH THE VETERAN CADRE AND MILITARY DOMINATED PARTY. THE PLENUM REPORT MADE NO MENTION OF SZECHWAN'S TROUBLED CHIEF, LIU HSING-YUAN, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT HE WAS

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NOT PRESENT. END SUMMARY

1. SZECHWAN REPORTED ITS EIGHTH PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (RC) PLENUM (JUNE 25) WITH A RADIO BROADCAST HIGHLIGHTING PLENUM CONCLUSIONS (CHENG TU JULY 2). SZECHWAN'S TROUBLED CHIEF, LIU HSING-YUAN, WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE REPORT. THE BROADCAST STRESSED THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AS MAJOR POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE CONDUCT OF THE CURRENT MOVEMENT AND IN CHINA'S FUTURE, AND SAID THEY ARE TO BE GIVEN "FULLY PLAY" AT ALL LEVELS. ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE THEM ARE NOT TO BE TOLERATED. IN THE WORDS OF THE PLENUM, "WE (THE RC) HAVE EXPOSED AND CRITICIZED THE CRIMES... IN SABOTAGING THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AND STRANGLING REVOLUTIONARY NEW-BORN THINGS." TO SACTIFY RC CLAIMS TO AUTHORITY AND A ROLE IN THE MOVEMENT, THE PLENUM REPORT NOTED THE NEED TO "APPLY CHAIRMAN MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES" AND THE CURRENCY OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONDUCTING THE MOVEMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS KIND OF CLAIM TO PRIVILEGED POSTION HAS PUBLICLY BEEN PUT FORWARD SO STRONGLY IN THE CURRENT MOVEMENT.

2. THE PLENUM IDENTIFIED THE TRAINING OF "NEW-EMERGING FORCES" AS A MAJOR TASK FOR VETERAN CADRES, AND THUS HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH IN THE CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES. THE VETERAN CADRE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD REVOLUTIONARY "NEW-BORN FORCES" IS A KEY CRITERION IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN POSITION. IN THE SAME REGARD, THE PLENUM ALLUDED--- WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION-- TO A MAO LETTER TO CHIANG CHING IN 1966 BY URGING THE RC MEMBERS NOT TO GET SWELLED HEADS, AND TO THINK OF THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES, SHORTCOMINGS AND MISTAKES. (THIS LETTER MAY BE UNDER CURRENT STUDY; SEE REF A). THE PLENUM NOTED RC MEMBERS MOVING ON TO JOIN THE CCP AND THE CHINA YOUTH LEAGUE, AND THIS GIVES FURTHER POINT TO THE YOUTHFUL MEMBERSHIP OF THIS GROUP NOW SEEKING TO ASSERT ITSELF.

3. THE PLENUM REPORT CAME DOWN HARD FOR UNITY AND KEEPING UP PRODUCTION. IT INSISTED THAT CADRES AND THE MASSES MUST STAY AT THEIR PRODUCTION AND WORK POSTS AND "MAKE REVOLUTION ON THE SPOT AND IN SPARE TIME". (OTHER REPORTS HAVE CITED A CENTRAL DIRECTIVE TO KEEP PEOPLE UNDER CRITICISM FROM LEAVING THEIR POSTS; REF B).

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4. COMMENT. THE REBUILDING OF THE PARTY SINCE THE NINTH AND TENTH CONGRESSES HAS MEANT A STEADY EROSION OF RC POWER. (WHEN THE RESPECTIVE ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AND THE REBUILT PARTY COMMITTEES WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN 1970-71, IT WAS THE PARTY WHICH WAS TO MAKE POLICY DECISIONS AND THE RC WHICH WAS TO CARRY THEM OUT.) THE CURRENT MOVEMENT HAS GIVEN THE LEFT AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSERT ITS YOUTHFUL MEMBERS'

CLAIM TO A SHARE OF THAT POLICY POWER AND TO REESTABLISH THE
REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARY NEW THINGS AT
THE FOREFRONT OF CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, A
RECENT CHEKIANG PARTY CONFERENCE JUNE 30) WAS PRESIDED OVER BY
A RED GUARD ACTIVIST
RESTORED TO FAVOR IN HANCHOW CIRCLES BUT WITHOUT ANY REPORTED
PARTY POSITION.

5. THE JULY 1 PARTY ANNIVERSARY EDITORIAL "THE PARTY EXERCISES
LEASERSHIP IN EVERYTHING" MAY THUS BE EVEN MORE OF AN ATTEMPT
TO GLOSS OVER THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE NOW OCCURRING (REF C). THE
PLENUM REPORT PAYS STRONG COURT TO THE PARTY'S ROLE IN LEADING
THE PLENUM AND THE MOVEMENT, BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES
ARE INSTRUCTED TO "DEBATE POLITICS"-- CLEARLY A MATTER OF PARTY
CONCERN.

6. LIU HSING-YUAN, THE LEADING SZECHWAN OFFICE HOLDER HAS
BEEN UNDER SHARP ATTACK AND OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT FOR SOME TIME.
FAILURE TO MENTION HIM IN THE PLENUM REPORT PUT HIS RETENTION
OF POWER DEEPER IN DOUBT.
CROSS

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